Competency Assessment Tool (CAT)

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Directions:

- Review annually and at 6-month period for new staff
- Staff and supervisor can individually complete and then meet to agree on ratings and final action plan
- Sections 1–4 are considered to be "Core Competency Areas" and address foundational knowledge and skill competencies that would apply to professionals involved in the North Dakota Early Intervention Program (ND EI Program), so all staff will be reviewed in Sections 1-4. Sections 5–11 are designed only for staff to address skills and knowledge competencies required by professionals to fulfill specific job roles and responsibilities, so only the job role specific competencies need be rated.
- Programs maintain CAT, unless a condition of the Regional Action Plan (RAP)
- Complete CAT Action Plan at the end of the document

Measurement Strategy Options	Examples
Review of Case Documents:	Quality Enhancement Review (QER), evaluations/assessments, consults, home visit notes, progress notes, administrative notes, Risk Assessment Tool, Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP), Individual Service Plan (ISP), release of information, eligibility summary, prior notice, Local Education Agency (LEA) notification, Opt-out notification, consent
Direct Observation:	Staff meetings, teaming, face-to-face with families, 1-on-1 consultation, video, home visits, evaluations/assessments, intake
Family Feedback:	State survey, informal/formal complaints, advisory feedback, program surveys, state transition survey, other agency surveys, experienced parent feedback
Annual Performance Report Indicators:	Each year, data is collected for a number of indicators in order to file an Annual Performance Report (APR) with the federal Department of Education. The data from the indicators can be disaggregated so that it can used for the completion of this tool (CAT) and personnel feedback purposes. The APR data focuses on timeliness of service delivery and IFSP plan development, child outcomes, family outcomes, performance on transition, and service delivery in the natural environment
Case Review Tool-Revised (CRT-R):	The North Dakota Case Review Tool was designed to be used by the North Dakota Part C Early Intervention program for training, accountability, and monitoring purposes, through the review of each section of the IFSP with quality ratings.

Performance Rating Rubric:

Novice: A rating of "novice" means that the individual is not consistently implementing the early intervention practice. Individual support is required in order to implement the basic and expected early intervention practice.

Emerging. A rating of "emerging" means that the individual is beginning to implement the early intervention practices without support. This includes the practice of basic family-centered, routines-based practices.

Meets Standard: A rating of "meets standard" means that the individual is consistently implementing the early intervention practice. This includes the practice of building upon and enhancing the practice to create more opportunity for families and team members to be active participants in early intervention.

Exceeds: A rating of "exceeds" means that the individual is consistently implementing the early intervention practice that is recognized as a best practice. This includes the practice of encouraging reflections, critical thinking, and connections to create equal partnership between team members and families.

Improvement Strategy Options:

- Reflective Supervision
- IFSP Review with CRT-R
- Book Review on relevant topic
- Review Policies
- Formal State Training
- o Orientation Training
- Observation

- o Online Modules
- Professional Development
- Video
- Job Shadow
- Mentoring
- Action Research

Other _____

Competency Standard Example:

Name: E.I. Smith

Core Competency Areas

Sections 1–4 are considered to be "Core Competency Areas" and address foundational knowledge and skill competencies that would apply to professionals involved in the North Dakota Early Intervention Program (ND EI Program).

Competency: 1- Infant and Toddler Development

A person employed in ND El Program with competence in infant and toddler development will:

Competency Standards	Measurement Strategies	<u>Performance</u>	Improvement Strategies
1.a Demonstrate knowledge of infant and toddler development, including the principles of growth and development (variability within domains), developmental milestone sequences, early literacy, developmental domains (cognitive, communication, physical, social-emotional, adaptive).	o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	
1.b Demonstrate knowledge of atypical development, the characteristics of prematurity and common developmental disabilities, and the potential effects on development and child-caregiver interactions.	o o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	o o o
1.c Demonstrate knowledge of the influence of environmental, cultural/linguistic, family and health/medical/socio-economic factors on child growth and development, and the ability to use evidence-based research and resources to address this influence.	o o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	o o o
1.d Identify children's strengths and challenges, analyze children's interactions and play behaviors and, with the family, guide the development of appropriate strategies to facilitate development.	o o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	o o o

Competency: 2- Family-Centered Services and Supports

A person employed in ND El Program with competence in family-centered services and supports will:

Competency Standards	Measurement Strategies	<u>Performance</u>	Improvement Strategies
2.a Demonstrate an understanding of the roles,	0	 Exceeds 	o <u></u>
responsibilities and relationships of families	o	Meets	0
and the influence of these factors on the promotion	o	Standard	0
of children's growth and development.		 Emerging 	0
		Novice	

2.b Demonstrate an understanding of family-centered	0	o Exceeds	0
principles and how to collaborate with families to			0
design and implement family-centered services.		— Otamaland	0
design and implement family-contered services.	0	- <u>-</u> .	0
		<u> </u>	
O - Description of the state of		o Novice	
2.c Demonstrate an understanding of how family	0	_ o Exceeds	0
functioning is impacted by the eligible child	0		0
including respect for the diversity of families, and	0	—	0
the strengths and resources that families contribute		 Emerging 	0
to the child's development.		Novice	
2.d Provide accurate and balanced information to	0	 Exceeds 	0
empower families to make informed decisions	0	_	0
regarding service options to address the child and	0	_	0
family's priorities.		_ ○ Emerging	0
fairing 3 priorities.		Novice	
2.e Use a variety of communication methods to	0	_ o Exceeds	0
implement strategies that are respectful and non-	0		·
biased and that reflect family's values and	0	_ Standard	0
traditions.		 Emerging 	·
		o Novice	
2.f Understand one's personal beliefs, values and	0	_ o Exceeds	0
biases, and how those values may influence	0	_ o Meets	0
interactions with families.	0		o
		o Emerging	0
		Novice	
2.g Assist families in the use of technology for	0	 Exceeds 	0
information and support.	0	_	0
	0	Standard	0
		_ ○ Emerging	o
		Novice	
2.h Assist families in the use of community, state, and	0	Fyeede	0
national resources, such as parent-to-parent	0		0
connections to support children and families in		_	0
	0	-	0
advocating to meet their concerns and priorities.		o Emerging	
Oi December for the march are so the decision well-		Novice	
2.i Recognize family members as the decision-makers	0	_ o Exceeds	0
regarding their children.	0	_ o Meets	0
	0	_ Standard	0
		Emerging	·
		 Novice 	
2.j Demonstrate effective relationship building skills,	0	_ o Exceeds	0
			o

such as active listening and interviewing skills.	0	_ o Meets	0
	0	_ Standard	0
		Emerging	
		 Novice 	
2.k Collaborate with families in designing and	0	_ o Exceeds	o
implementing activities that promote healthy	0	_ o Meets	o
behaviors, growth, and development for their	0	_ Standard	0
children.		 Emerging 	o
		o Novice	
2.I Demonstrate the use of an ongoing family	0	_ o Exceeds	0
assessment process to identify family priorities,	0	_ o Meets	0
resources, and concerns, and develop	0	_ Standard	0
recommendations for functional, routine-based		 Emerging 	0
interventions in natural environments based on the		 Novice 	
child's current level of functioning, and the strengths			
and needs of the child and family.			
,			

Competency: 3- Policies and Procedures
A person employed in ND El Program with competence in policies and procedures will:

Competency Standards	Measurement Strategies	<u>Performance</u>	Improvement Strategies
3.a Implement state regulations and policies concerning federal and state legislation to deliver services and programs for young children and their families.	o o	ExceedsMeetsStandardEmergingNovice	o
3.b Implement knowledge of assessment of risk factors including state child abuse and neglect reporting laws to insure safety of children and families.	o o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	o o o
3.c Assist families in understanding and using procedural safeguards and due process mechanisms as needed to meet family and child priorities for services.	o o	ExceedsMeetsStandardEmergingNovice	o o
3.d Follow rules for confidentiality and use appropriate consent procedures.	o o	ExceedsMeetsStandard	o

0	Emerging
0	Novice

Competency: 4- Team Collaboration and Professionalism
A person employed in ND El Program with competence in team collaboration and professionalism will:

Competency Standards	Measurement Strategies	<u>Performance</u>	Improvement Strategies
4.a Demonstrate an understanding of implementing the transdisciplinary approach including the roles, responsibilities and competencies within early intervention disciplines.	o o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	0 0 0 0
 4.b Work effectively with families as team members and professionals from varied disciplines and roles in addressing family concerns, resources, and priorities. 4.c Consult with family and team members regarding research and current trends about best practice specific to her/his own discipline and/or job role as it relates to the child and family. 	o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging 	
 4.d Understand and apply current professional standards of practice and ethics, including sensitivity to diversity. 4.e Integrate collaboration, advocacy, and leadership skills to build consensus, create change, and influence better outcomes for children and families. 	o o	 Novice Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	

Specific Job Roles and Responsibilities Areas

Sections 5–11 are designed to address skills and knowledge competencies required by professionals to fulfill specific job roles and responsibilities. It is the intent that professionals in these positions or executing specific responsibilities would also have achieved competency in the Core Competency Areas.

Competency: 5- Evaluation and Assessment A person employed in ND El Program with competence in evaluation/assessment will:

Competency Standards	Measurement Strategies	Level of	Improvement Strategies
	Used	<u>Performance</u>	
 5.a Demonstrate knowledge of federal and state evaluation/assessment requirements and eligibility criteria. 5.b Conduct pre-assessment planning, including the collection, review, and interpretation of pre- 	o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice Exceeds Meets 	
assessment information in partnership with the family and other team members. 5.c Identify influences on evaluations/assessments	0	Standard o Emerging o Novice o Exceeds	0
including cultural, linguistic, socioeconomic, geographic, and familial variables.	o	 Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
5.d Select various screening, evaluation, and assessment procedures and protocols appropriate for the individual child, including norm referenced instruments, criterion-referenced scales, observational protocols, and individually-designed probes and activities.	o o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	0 0 0
5.e Adapt and individualize evaluation/assessment procedures to meet the unique needs of the child and family in a variety of settings.	o o	ExceedsMeetsStandardEmergingNovice	0 0 0 0
5.f Analyze, summarize, interpret, and communicate evaluation/assessment findings in verbal and written forms using language that can be understood by the family and team members.	o o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	o o

Competency: 6- Consultation

A person employed in ND El Program with competence in consultation will:

Competency Standards	Measurement Strategies Used	<u>Level of</u> <u>Performance</u>	Improvement Strategies
6.a Demonstrate updated knowledge regarding discipline specific learning and skill development in relation to natural learning opportunities and early learning theories.	o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	0 0 0 0
6.b Clarify roles, responsibilities, and follow-up plans with the primary early interventionist, family and any other team members.	o o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	o
6.c Analyze, summarize, interpret, and communicate consultation findings in verbal and written forms using language that can be understood and be used by the family and team members.	o o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	
6.d Actively partner with other team members and family members to identify, plan, and implement evidence-based practices that address the needs of the child and family.	o o	ExceedsMeetsStandardEmergingNovice	o o

Competency: 7- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Development A person employed in ND El Program with competence in IFSP development will:

Competency Standards	Measurement Strategies Used	<u>Level of</u> Performance	Improvement Strategies
7.a Develop an IFSP based on the priorities of the family and other team members that is consistent with criteria in federal and state regulations.	o o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	o o o
7.b Incorporate and use evaluation/assessment, and family assessment information to develop an IFSP that is based on a child and family's routines and priorities.	o o	ExceedsMeetsStandardEmergingNovice	o o o

7.c Develop functional and measurable IFSP	0	 Exceeds 	0
outcomes, criteria, and activities.	0	Meets	o
	0	Standard	0
		 Emerging 	0
		o Novice	
7.d Integrate transition planning into the IFSP process	0	 Exceeds 	0
following federal/state/regional/local regulations	0	Meets	0
and guidelines.	0	Standard	0
· ·		 Emerging 	0
		Novice	
7.e Ensure early intervention services are based on the	0	o Exceeds	0
needs identified in the outcomes of the IFSP.	0	Meets	0
	0	Standard	0
		 Emerging 	0
		o Novice	
7.f Ensure services are recorded in the IFSP and	0	o Exceeds	0
provided in timeline outlined in the IFSP.	0	Meets	0
·	0	Standard	0
		 Emerging 	0
		Novice	

Competency: 8- Intervention Strategies and Supports in Natural Environments A person employed in ND El Program with competence providing supports in natural environments will:

Competency Standards	Measurement Strategies	<u>Performance</u>	Improvement Strategies
8.a Facilitate visits designed to produce positive outcomes for children and families by using various models of collaboration, consultation, and coaching with families and early intervention personnel.	o o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	0 0 0 0
8.b Develop activity-based intervention strategies that are functional and developmentally appropriate within the routines and activities of the family's typical day and are grounded in evidence-based practice.	o o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	00000
8.c Assist families and caregivers to identify natural learning opportunities and use routines of daily living to help children learn and grow.	o o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	o
8.d Adapt learning environments that are functional and developmentally appropriate and promote	o	ExceedsMeets	0

health and safety within typical routines.	0	Standard	0
, ,,		_ ○ Emerging	0
		 Novice 	
8.e Guide the family and other caregivers in facilitating	0	o Exceeds	0
mobility and function including carrying, lifting, and	0		0
positioning strategies.	0	 Standard	0
		o Emerging	0
		 Novice 	
8.f Develop individual activities using adaptive and	0	_ o Exceeds	0
assistive technology to facilitate a child's	0	Meets	0
independence in activities of daily living.	0	Standard	0
		 Emerging 	0
		 Novice 	
8.g Facilitate positive social interactions among	0	_ o Exceeds	0
children, and between parent and child.	0	_ o Meets	0
	0	_ Standard	0
		 Emerging 	0
		o Novice	
8.h Support families and other caregivers in using	0	Exceeds	0
positive behavioral support strategies that will increase appropriate behavior in young children.	0	Meets	0
	0	Standard	0
		o Emerging	0
		Novice	

Competency: 9- Service Coordination A person employed in ND El Program with competence providing supports in service coordination will:

Competency Standards	Measurement Strategies	Performance	Improvement Strategies
9.a Ensure adherence to regulatory timelines and other	0	 Exceeds 	0
procedures for federal, state, and local regulations	0	Meets	0
and standards pertaining to early intervention	o	Standard	0
services		 Emerging 	o
3CI VIOC3		 Novice 	
9.b Collaborate with others in the community who	0	 Exceeds 	0
provide services to children and families.	0	Meets	0
	0	Standard	0
		 Emerging 	0
		 Novice 	
9.c In collaboration with the family, coordinate and	0	 Exceeds 	o
monitor the referral and delivery of designated	o	Meets	0
, ,	0	Standard	0

services with other agencies as appropriate for the		 Emerging 	0
child and family.		Novice	
9.d Coordinate the organization and completion of	0	o Exceeds	0
evaluations, assessments and consultations.	0	Meets	0
	0	Standard	0
		 Emerging 	0
		 Novice 	
9.e Coordinate, facilitate and participate in the	0	o Exceeds	0
development and review of programs plans	0	o Meets	0
	0	Standard	0
		Emerging	o
		 Novice 	
9.f Coordinate the development of transition plans.	0	Exceeds	0
	0	Meets	0
	0	Standard	0
		Emerging	o
		Novice	

Competency: 10- Program Leadership and Administration A person employed in ND El Program with competence in program leadership and administration and supports will:

Competency Standards	Measurement Strategies	<u>Performance</u>	Improvement Strategies
10.a Employ practices to assure compliance to state and federal regulations as well as assuring timely and accurate submission of reports to state and federal agencies.	o o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	0 0 0 0
10.b Ensure knowledge of current practices in the field of Early Intervention to promote current policies and practices are valid, effective, and in compliance.	o o	 Exceeds Meets Standard Emerging Novice 	o
10.c Approach situations with foresight and flexibility to make the necessary changes to comply with changing conditions and promote solutions.	o o	ExceedsMeetsStandardEmergingNovice	o
10.d Employ strategies that capture family and community voices and to support the active and meaningful participation of families and	o o	ExceedsMeetsStandard	0

community groups including those that are		 Emerging 	0	
traditionally underrepresented.		 Novice 		
10.e Apply understanding of diversity in communicating	0	 Exceeds 	o	
effectively, establishing positive relationships, and	0	o Meets		
demonstrating respect to a diverse population of	0	Standard	0	
children and families served in the ND EI program.		 Emerging 	o	
' ~		 Novice 		
10.f Implement accurate budgeting and fiscal practices	0	o Exceeds	0	
to operate an Early Intervention service.	0	Meets		
to operate an Early intervention corridor	0	Standard		
	·	Emerging	0	
		Novice		
10.g Ensure that all staff have the knowledge, training,		- 1	0	
	0			
and licensure/credentials to work in the ND EI	0	o Meets	<u> </u>	
program.	0	Standard		
		 Emerging 		
		o Novice		
10.h Implement effective employee evaluation and	0	 Exceeds 	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
feedback strategies based on clear and effective	0	Meets		
job descriptions	0	Standard		
		Emerging	°	
		 Novice 		
10.i Identify and define training needs based on needs	0	o Exceeds	0	
assessment and including data from staff and	0	o Meets	0	
families.	0	Standard	0	
		 Emerging 	0	
		o Novice		
10.j Revise program policies and procedures as	0	o Exceeds	0	
needed to ensure that they reflect current program	0		1	
demands and respect diversity of children,	0	Standard	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
families, and personnel.	C	Emerging	0	
ramiles, and personner.		A		_
10 k Engure that program policies and program				
10.k Ensure that program policies and program	0	 Exceeds 	o	
information are provided in sufficient detail and	0	o Meets	o <u></u>	
formats so that all stakeholders, including families,	0	Standard	0	
understand what the information means.		 Emerging 		
		Novice		
10.I Conduct ongoing program evaluations that are	0	 Exceeds 	0	
comprehensive and multi-dimensional to make	0	Meets		
informed programmatic decisions.	0	Standard		
		 Emerging 	o <u> </u>	
		 Novice 		

Competency: 11- Supervision
A person employed in ND El Program with competence providing supports in supervision will:

Competency Standards	Measurement Strategies	<u>Performance</u>	Improvement Strategies
11.a Be knowledgeable of the current regulations,	0	 Exceeds 	0
policies, and procedures of the ND and federal	0	Meets	0
Part C and Medicaid systems.	o	Standard	0
	o	 Emerging 	0
	o	 Novice 	
	o		
11.b Be knowledgeable of the different professional	0	 Exceeds 	0
roles in early intervention.	0	 Meets 	0
	0	Standard	0
		 Emerging 	0
		 Novice 	
11.c Be knowledgeable of various models of team	o	 Exceeds 	0
functioning.	0	Meets	0
	o	Standard	o
		 Emerging 	o
		 Novice 	
11.d Use evidence-based practices in providing	0	 Exceeds 	0
technical assistance, supervision, and feedback to	0	Meets	0
improve staff skills.	0	Standard	0
		 Emerging 	0
		 Novice 	
11.e Use effective communication, coaching strategies,	0	 Exceeds 	o
conflict resolution and decision-making skills in	0	Meets	0
providing supervision to staff.	0	Standard	0
		 Emerging 	0
		 Novice 	
11.f Identify and define staff training needs based on	0	 Exceeds 	0
needs assessment and including data from staff	0	Meets	0
and families.	0	Standard	0
		 Emerging 	0
		Novice	

Competency Performance Tool Action Plan

Example Action Plan:

Name: E.I. Smith

	Date: 12.12.13
	Areas of Improvement: 1.a Need better understanding of typical and atypical infant toddler development
	Action Plan with Strategies: Watch modules on toddler development, observation paired with written developmental assessment reviewed by mentor staff member. Mentor will review all IFSP documentation with staff member using the Case Review Tool-Revised (CRT-R).
	Measurement Criteria: Jane will complete 6 written developmental assessments during the year and review them with an experienced ID staff with 4/6 to align with the experienced staff member's observations regarding atypical and typical development.
	Timeline: Jane's developmental assessment will align with experienced staff that is mentoring her by the time of the next CAT review on 12-12-14.
Name:	
Date:	
Areas of Impro	ovement:
Action Plan wi	ith Strategies:
Measurement	Criteria:
Timeline:	
Staff Signature	e: Supervisor Signature: